

BRITISH BIKE BONANZA: BLUE RIDGE BRITS

Besides being a gateway to the Shenandoah Mountains, and having a checkered history back to British pre-Revolutionary War times, Front Royal, Virginia is also the northern terminus of *Skyline Drive* which melds into the Blue Ridge Parkway. The entire 600-mile length of this roadway is designated as National Parklands. The Army Corps of Engineers built it to follow the Eastern Continental Divide, staying at elevation its entire length. No lights, no pedestrians, no cross roads; it is famous for spectacular scenery, it is very curvy, of course, and it is especially uplifting on a motorcycle. It is a *'bucket list'* ride.



Ride Across the Potomac

Historic White's Ferry is the last of 100 ferries that used to operate on the Potomac River. This ferry, named after the confederate Civil War General Jubal A. Early, connects Whites Ferry Road in Montgomery County, Maryland with a road by the same name in Loudoun County, Virginia.

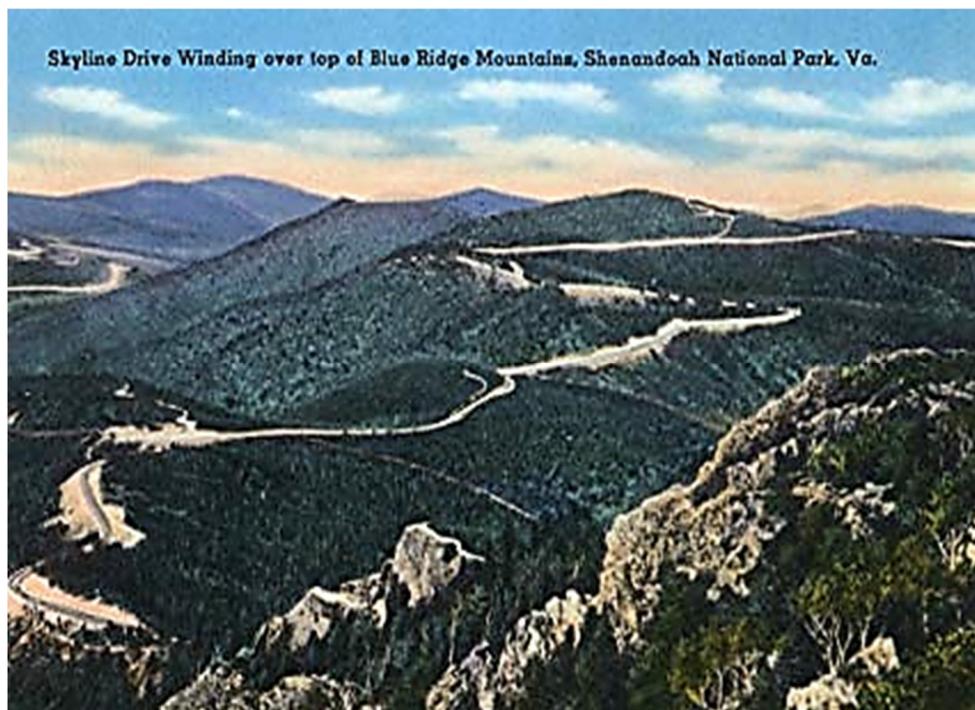
The ride from Kennett Square to Front Royal ain't too shabby either. We stay on unused back roads, including an obscure cable-drawn ferry across the

Potomac River. At our relaxed pace, the all-day ride brings us to our motel in Front Royal. We can walk around a bit and get a feel for this historic burg. Dinner could be upscale, a 15-mile ride away at *The Griffin Tavern*, where an appropriately British cuisine is on offer. Bangers and mash or fish and chips with your warm beer? (Cold beer also available). If we don't feel like travelling, there are dozens of choices right in town.

We should get to sleep early; the best time to climb up to Skyline is sunrise. After a light breakfast and a cuppa, we'll hit Skyline Drive way before the tourists in their motorhomes break camp. We'll sample the first 35 miles or so, then we must turn north. Our scenic byways route home will be a fun ride, with curves, natural splendor, and a back country feel that takes us back to simpler times. We'll stop every 50 or 75 miles for a break, a snack, and some camaraderie. You will be able to switch bikes at will, so as to sample all the Best of Blighty.

Sunday's ride is long one, maybe 250 miles. You will definitely get the full-on Brit Bike experience and a better appreciation for the riders of the 60's and 70' who regularly made long trips on these bikes. *Those were real men!* We aim to be back before sundown on Sunday. Lynn will have hot Shepherd's Pie on the table. We get to eat and drink, and in our best British accents, lie about how fast we were.

LONG LIVE THE QUEEN!



Skyline Drive Winding over top of Blue Ridge Mountains, Shenandoah National Park, Va.